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News Release

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the sentencing today of Samuel G. Kooritzky on charges of conspiracy, labor certification fraud, making false statements, immigration fraud, and money laundering. The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced Mr. Kooritzky to ten years imprisonment and ordered him to pay restitution to his victims and to forfeit \$2,300,000 in unlawful proceeds to the United States. Under an agreement with the United States, Mr. Kooritzky agreed to waive appeal in this case and to plead guilty to one count of extortion in a related, but pending case against him.

Samuel G. Kooritzky, age 64 of Vienna, Virginia, is an attorney and the owner of the Capital Law Centers in Arlington, Virginia; Takoma Park, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. On December 11, 2002, he was convicted by a jury in the Eastern District of Virginia of 57 felony violations of federal law: one count of conspiracy, 15 counts of labor certification fraud, 20 counts of making false statements, 20 counts of immigration fraud, and one count of money laundering.

The charges against Mr. Kooritzky stemmed from his efforts to file fraudulent applications for alien employment certification with the United States Department of Labor on behalf of Northern Virginia businesses and local immigrants. These applications sought to convince the Department of Labor that the businesses needed to hire the immigrants due to a lack of U.S. workers. If approved, the applications would have allowed the immigrants involved to apply for a green card to live and work in the United States. In practice, however, none of the businesses listed in the applications had authorized the applications. Rather, the applications contained a false job offer and the forged signature of a manager of the business in question. Mr. Kooritzky presented the applications as legitimate to the immigrants who signed the applications and charged each immigrant between \$7,000 and \$20,000 per application.

In total, Mr. Kooritzky and his associates filed over 2,700 fraudulent applications with the Department of Labor and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the space of 18 months, making this case one of the largest labor certification frauds ever prosecuted.

According to Mr. McNulty, "As our nation combats the threat of terrorism, the prosecution and punishment of Mr. Kooritzsky and criminals like him, have never been more important. His scam undermined the integrity of our immigrant employment system and created an opportunity for sleeper terrorists to maintain themselves in our community."

Mr. Kooritzky's conviction is the fourth conviction to come from a year-long investigation into labor certification fraud conducted by the United States Department of Labor, the United States Department of State, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Fairfax County Police Department. The other convictions involved three individuals who assisted Mr. Kooritzky to prepare the fraudulent applications: Ronald Bogardus, Inderjeet Kaur, and Carolina Trana. Mr. Bogardus was an employee of the Department of State; Ms. Kaur and Ms. Trana worked for Mr. Kooritzky. Assistant United States Attorney John Morton handled the prosecution for the United States